



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 17, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Subject: Bear Harvest Allocation in Newberry and Red Oak Bear Management Units; Red Oak Bear Management Unit Bow and Arrow Only Season
Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2016
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage wild animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

In keeping with efforts to stabilize bear regulations and quotas by using a two-year cycle, the Department's recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission on bear regulations and license quotas were approved and set through the 2016 season. However, due to provisions of the 2007 Inland Consent Decree, the Department is bringing forward an out-of-cycle license quota modification recommendation for two qualifying bear management units (BMUs). In addition, the Department recommends a technical change to the bow and arrow only season in the Red Oak BMU.

The BMUs in the Northern Lower Peninsula and Eastern Upper Peninsula are part of the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory and subject to the 2007 Inland Consent Decree. Pursuant to the Consent Decree, the five Tribes covered by the 1836 Treaty may authorize up to 10 percent of the available bear harvest in the BMUs within the Ceded Territory and may authorize bear harvest up to 12.5 percent if the 10 percent is reached during the previous season. The remaining harvest is allocated to state-regulated hunters. The Tribes reached the 10 percent harvest level in both the Red Oak and Newberry BMUs in 2015. Accordingly, the Department recommends the following license modifications for the 2016 season:

- Red Oak BMU: a target state harvest of 183 bears (total of 620 state licenses) with a tribal allocated harvest of 31 bears.
- Newberry BMU: a target state harvest of 244 bears (total of 1,135 licenses) for the three hunt periods with a tribal allocated harvest of 40 bears.

In 2009, the Natural Resources Commission approved regulations to allow the use of a crossbow during bear seasons when firearm hunting was also legal as long as the hunter obtained a free crossbow stamp. The Red Oak BMU has a bow and arrow only season, and because firearms were not allowed, crossbows were not historically permitted either. Present-day regulations for most species now allow for the use of a crossbow when bow and arrow use is permitted. Accordingly, the Department recommends allowing the use of a crossbow during the Red Oak BMU bow and arrow season.

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Baiting with Chocolate

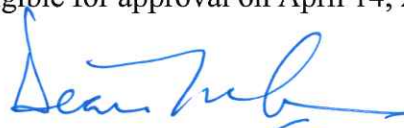
The Department has received requests to consider prohibiting the use of various types of chocolate and cocoa derivatives in bear bait due to potential negative impacts to wildlife ingesting large quantities of chocolate or cocoa. For the 2016 bear season, New Hampshire will be the first state to approve a total ban on chocolate and cocoa derivatives in bear bait. The Department will evaluate available information and engage stakeholders on this topic during the regularly scheduled 2017 bear regulations cycle. Potential recommendations for regulatory change will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission in March of 2017.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's February 2016 calendar and may be eligible for approval on April 14, 2016.



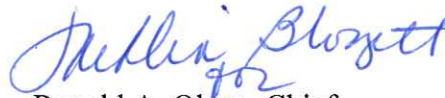
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Deb Begalle, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Bill O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 5 of 2016

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a, it is ordered that effective April 15, 2016, the following section(s) of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.200b Bear population, harvest quotas.

Sec. 3.200b (1) The black bear hunt seasons and quotas for general licenses valid on all land within the listed units are as shown in table 5:

TABLE 5

Bear Management Unit (BMU) Hunt Periods and License Quotas

BMU Name	Hunt Period	Licenses	Total
Amasa	First	85	
	Second	140	
	Third	235	
Unit total			460
Baraga	First	270	
	Second	440	
	Third	780	
Unit total			1,490
Bergland	First	190	
	Second	270	
	Third	630	
Unit total			1,090
Carney	First	100	
	Second	160	
	Third	475	
Unit total			735
Drummond	First	1	1
Gwinn	First	195	
	Second	250	
	Third	720	
Unit total			1,165
Newberry	First	240 230	
	Second	280 265	
	Third	670 640	
Unit total			1,190 1,135
UP Total			6,131 6,076
Baldwin	First	80	
Gladwin	First	90	
Red Oak	First	650 620	
NLP total			820 790
State-wide total			6,951 6,866

3.203 Bear hunting, open seasons, defined.

Sec. 3.203. (1) The open season for taking bear with a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow, on all land within the listed units, shall be as follows:

- (a) The first hunt in Amasa, Baraga, Bergland, Carney, Gwinn, and Newberry shall be from September 10 through October 21.
 - (b) The second hunt in Amasa, Baraga, Bergland, Carney, Gwinn, and Newberry shall be from September 15 through October 26.
 - (c) The third hunt in Amasa, Baraga, Bergland, Carney, Gwinn, and Newberry shall be from September 25 through October 26.
 - (d) The hunt on Drummond island shall be from September 10 through October 21.
- (2) The open season for taking a bear with a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow in the Gladwin bear management unit, Baldwin bear management unit, and red oak bear management unit in zone 2 shall be from the first Sunday following September 15 and 8 days thereafter.
- (a) The open season for taking a bear with **crossbow or** bow and arrow only in the red oak bear management unit shall be from the first Friday following October 1 through 6 days thereafter.
 - (b) The open season for taking a bear with firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow in the Baldwin bear management unit, north area, as defined in section 12.557(2), shall be a total of 16 days from 7 days prior to the first Friday following September 15 and 8 days thereafter.
- (3) A person shall not take a bear on Bois Blanc island.
 - (4) There shall be no open season for the taking of bear in the Dansville bear management unit.

Issued on this 14th day of April, 2016.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

John Matonich, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Director